General Assembly

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Sixty-third session
Agenda item 118

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[on the report of the Fifth Committee (A/63/648/Add.5)]

63/268. Special subjects relating to the programme budget for the biennium 2008–2009

The General Assembly,

I

United Nations Postal Administration

Recalling section XIV of its resolution 62/238 of 22 December 2007,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the contingent liability reserve for the United Nations Postal Administration[1] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2]

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the contingent liability reserve for the United Nations Postal Administration;[1]

2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions[2] subject to the provisions of the present resolution;

3. *Takes note* of paragraph 8 of the report of the Advisory Committee;[2]

4. *Decides* not to create a reserve for contingent liabilities for postal services;

II

Standards of accommodation for air travel

Recalling its resolution 42/214 of 21 December 1987, section IV, paragraph 14, of its resolution 53/214 of 18 December 1998, section IV of its resolution 60/255 of 8 May 2006 and section XV of its resolution 62/238 of 22 December 2007, and its decision 57/589 of 18 June 2003,

[1] A/63/320
[2] A/63/568

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on standards of accommodation for air travel[3] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[4]

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on standards of accommodation for air travel;[3]

2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;[4]

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to explore all possible options, including the use of mileage points accumulated from official travel, for reducing the cost of air travel, and to present his conclusions thereon in the context of the comprehensive report referred to in paragraph 7 of the report of the Advisory Committee;[4]

III

Business continuity management

Recalling section VII of its resolution 62/238,

Recalling also its resolution 63/262 of 24 December 2008,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the revised estimates under sections 3, 17, 18, 20, 21, 27, 28C to G, 33 and 35 of the programme budget for the biennium 2008–2009 related to business continuity management[5] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[6]

Recognizing the multiplicity of risks currently facing the United Nations and its increasing dependency on information and communications technology systems,

Noting the complementarities and the close linkages between disaster recovery for information and communications technology and business continuity management,

Emphasizing the importance of close coordination of business continuity management policies among all United Nations entities, and of systematically sharing and exploiting lessons learned and best practices on a system-wide basis,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[5]

2. *Also takes note* of the work undertaken and progress achieved so far by the Secretary-General on business continuity management in response to the business risks faced by the United Nations;

3. *Further takes note* of the establishment by the Secretary-General of the Senior Emergency Policy Team and the Crisis Operations Group;

4. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[6] subject to the provisions of the present resolution;

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[3] A/63/524.

[4] A/63/715.

[5] A/63/359 and Corr.1.

[6] A/63/584.

5. *Reaffirms* paragraphs 6 and 12 of section IV of its resolution 63/262, and stresses the need for a comprehensive, unified and multi-hazard approach to business continuity;

6. *Notes* that the proposals of the Secretary-General on business continuity overlap and duplicate proposals contained in other reports, in particular on information and communications technology;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to further develop and justify the approach as set out in his report,[5] including by clarifying the relationship with other initiatives, in particular on information and communications technology, and the roles of the various actors in the process, with a view to avoiding a piecemeal approach to business continuity;

8. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that all departments and offices of the United Nations Secretariat, offices away from Headquarters and the regional commissions have business continuity plans in place and that the respective heads of departments and offices of the United Nations Secretariat and of the offices away from Headquarters and regional commissions are held accountable for their implementation;

9. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that lessons learned within the Secretariat for human influenza pandemic preparedness are taken into account as the work on business continuity management is implemented;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure a coordinated approach to business continuity management between the United Nations Secretariat, offices away from Headquarters and the regional commissions, including systematic support, appropriate coordination structures and regular consultations between the business continuity management focal points in New York and in other duty stations;

11. *Stresses* the need to draw upon the experiences of other United Nations entities in formulating the business continuity strategy;

12. *Also stresses* the importance of cooperation with host country authorities both at Headquarters and at all other duty stations;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to strive for economies of scale through coordination among organizations within the United Nations system on relevant issues, including the use of backup centres for information and communications technology, the use of consultants, the procurement of specialized equipment and medical supplies and training;

14. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to take all steps necessary to ensure that medical supplies and materials, including vaccines and antibiotics, are procured in compliance with the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolution 62/269 of 20 June 2008, in particular, among others, paragraph 20 thereof;

15. *Takes note* of paragraphs 14 to 16 and 19 to 21 of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;[6]

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a fully justified proposal for post and non-post resources in relation to the work currently under way on business continuity management in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2010–2011;

17. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2012–2013 on progress made;

IV

Estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council

Recalling its resolution 62/237 A of 22 December 2007, section V of its resolution 62/238 of 22 December 2007, section III of its resolution 62/245 of 3 April 2008 and section XI of its resolution 63/263 of 24 December 2008,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council[7] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[8]

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[7]

2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[8] subject to the provisions of the present resolution;

3. *Takes note* of the revised narrative and logical framework for the budget of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the implementation of Security Council resolution 1559 (2004) for the period 1 January to 31 December 2009, and of paragraphs 28 and 29 (*e*) of the related report of the Advisory Committee;[8]

4. *Approves* the revised budgets totalling 26,848,900 United States dollars for the United Nations Representative on the International Advisory and Monitoring Board of the Development Fund for Iraq, the United Nations International Independent Investigation Commission and the United Nations Mission in Nepal presented in the report of the Secretary-General;[7]

5. *Takes note* of the balance of 17,973,900 dollars of the appropriations for these missions for the biennium 2008–2009 based on actual expenditures incurred in 2008;

6. *Decides* to appropriate, after taking into account the unencumbered balance of 17,973,900 dollars for the three missions mentioned in paragraph 4 above, under the procedure provided for in paragraph 11 of annex I to resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986, an amount of 8,875,000 dollars under section 3, Political affairs, of the programme budget for the biennium 2008–2009;

7. *Also decides* to appropriate an amount of 1,663,100 dollars under section 35, Staff assessment, to be offset by a corresponding amount under income section 1, Income from staff assessment, of the programme budget for the biennium 2008–2009;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a revised budget proposal for the United Nations Political Office for Somalia for 2009 for consideration by the General Assembly during the second part of its resumed sixty-third session.

79th plenary meeting
7 April 2009

[7] A/63/346/Add.6.

[8] A/63/779.

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Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*on the report of the Fifth Committee (A/63/648/Add.5)*]

63/269. Information and communications technology, disaster recovery and business continuity for the United Nations: arrangements for the secondary data centre at Headquarters

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 63/262 of 24 December 2008,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Information and communications technology, disaster recovery and business continuity for the United Nations: arrangements for the secondary data centre at Headquarters"[1] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2]

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[1]

2. *Reaffirms* the need for a global operational framework to enable the United Nations to respond effectively to emergency situations that may impair operations of critical elements of its information and communications technology infrastructure and facilities;

3. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to take a unified approach to disaster recovery and business continuity, utilizing all available infrastructure, in order to achieve economies of scale and cost efficiencies;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that the United Nations uses enterprise data centres rather than local data centres as far as possible;

5. *Notes with concern* the continued deficiencies in the planning and management of the project;

6. *Regrets* that the proposal of the Secretary-General did not provide the necessary assurances that its implementation would sufficiently mitigate risks, including risks related to the physical security of data, during the relocation of the primary data centre to the North Lawn at Headquarters;

[1] A/63/743.
[2] A/63/774.

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General, when utilizing the services of the International Computing Centre, to ensure compliance with all regulations and rules regarding procurement, in order to guarantee the cost-effectiveness of the services provided by the Centre;

8. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2] subject to the provisions of the present resolution;

9. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General, expressed in section IV, paragraph 7, of its resolution 63/262, to ensure that the leased space is fully utilized if it is not possible to terminate the lease;

10. *Notes with concern* that the delays caused by the lack of reliable disaster recovery and business continuity services for Headquarters may lead to further cost escalation, including in respect of the capital master plan, and risk to data;

11. *Decides* that any further proposal for risk mitigation measures to protect data and the information and communications systems of the Secretariat during the construction work of the capital master plan, if necessary, shall be reported in the context of the annual progress report on the capital master plan;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to absorb 5,096,880 United States dollars within the approved budget of the capital master plan, and decides that 2,031,860 dollars shall be financed from the resources to be approved for the support account for peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010 in order to pursue the most reliable and cost-effective risk mitigation measures during the migration of the primary data centre to the North Lawn;

13. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to carry out a classification of critical/non-critical systems of the Secretariat and to provide to the General Assembly an inventory of systems classified according to their degree of criticality at the time of its consideration of the proposal for a permanent secondary data centre;

14. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that the level of protection proposed has been subject to a thorough cost-benefit analysis;

15. *Recalls* paragraph 12 of section IV of resolution 63/262, and requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly no later than at the main part of its sixty-fifth session a unified disaster recovery and business continuity plan, including a permanent solution for Headquarters.

79th plenary meeting
7 April 2009